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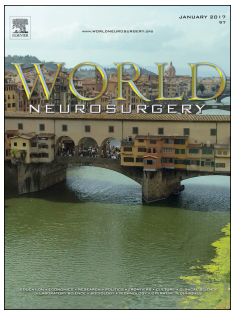

Predatory Publishing and Academic Integrity: A Perspective Statement on Retraction of Neurosurgical Publications: A Systematic Review

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Predatory Publishing and Academic Integrity: A Perspective Statement on *Retraction of Neurosurgical Publications: A Systematic Review*

The rise in article retraction has been discussed extensively within various academic circles, but there has been little to no investigation regarding how this trend has specifically affected the field of neurosurgery. In *Retraction of Neurosurgical Publications: A Systematic Review*, Wang et al. address in clear, quantifiable terms, how this issue has manifested itself within our discipline. Although their findings and recommendations could certainly assist neurosurgical departments in strengthening their scholarly output, it might also be prudent to explore some of the observations and tools other disciplines have reported regarding topics pertinent to article retraction. The Open Access movement, the rise in predatory publishing, and the recalibration of academic professional standards are all issues that are relevant to this discussion.

According to Wang et al., the rate of retraction within neurosurgical literature has been increasing over the last five years; the most common reasons given for retraction were paper duplication followed by plagiarism, fraudulent data, and data error. This trend has also been observed by authors in other fields who have studied the topic of retraction more broadly. Grieneisen and Zhang reported that the rate of retraction among academic journals increased by a factor of 19.06 from 2001 to 2010 (after adjusting for publication volume and repeat offenders the factor decreased to 11.34) (1).

Scholars sometimes disagree about which reason for retraction is most prevalent in academia. In 2012, Fang et al. reported that the percentage of scientific articles retracted specifically because of fraud (defined as data falsification or fabrication) or suspected fraud increased tenfold since 1975 (2). However, Steen et al. suggested that error due to scientific mistake was actually more common than fraud, and fabrication/data plagiarism was more common than text plagiarism (3). In their 2016

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